

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30



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Second Quarter 2017 Issue 196 Volume 51

Kaufmann, Houseman, Markovits and Woodward Chosen for 2017 WU30 Hall of Fame

Donna O'Keefe Houseman

Donna O'Keefe Houseman celebrated forty-five years with Amos Media this year. During her decades of professional editing, reporting, and writing for the stamp-hobby media, she has experienced a shift from handwriting and typewriters to computers and texts. She has witnessed publishing shifts in formats and increased online outreach. Through all those changes, she has provided engaging and relevant content. As a master of the *Associated Press Stylebook*, she ensures integrity for the philatelic message. Her body of work has reached nearly every American stamp collector and dealer.

Currently, Donna is editorial director for the Amos Media stamp group, consisting of *Linn's Stamp News* and the Scott postage stamp catalogs, which include the six-volume, worldwide *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* and the *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers 1840-1940*. She is the lead editor of the *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers 1840-1940*. She developed and edited the *Linn's Handbook* series and was instrumental in the development of *Linns.com* and *Zillions of Stamps.com*.

Among her most rewarding philatelic editing pro-

jects were serving as editor of *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbooks*, *Linn's Handbook* series and more than fifty books where she worked with notable philatelic writers, including George Amick, Michael Baadke, Dick Graham, Ken Lawrence, Steve Rod and others. Donna shared that she “enjoyed writing *Linn's*

‘Philatelic Gems’ columns on the world’s most intriguing and rarest stamps, a compilation of the columns resulted in a five-volume set of books titled *Philatelic Gems*.” The pride in her work is evident as she reports that she is “privileged to serve as editor of the most respected worldwide stamp catalogs, the Scott catalogs, and to work with a team of talented and well-respected editors in *Linn's* and Scott.” She is grateful to Michael Lawrence, former editor-publisher of *Linn's*, for his guidance and for challenging her.

Donna is a passionate collector of the stamps of Ireland, County Cork postal history and stampless covers and Great Britain stamps used in Ireland. She is married to husband Rick and enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, watching basketball and walking with her poodle.

Editor's Note: Donna Houseman will be the speaker at the WU30 breakfast at APS StampShow on August 6. See note on page 13.



Donna O'Keefe Houseman





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David Crotty From the Editor

APS Manual of Literature Exhibiting and Judging

This *Manual* is long awaited. Communication in the philatelic world is most important since collectors and writers live scattered across the world and most groups meet rarely. The communication literature comes in many forms and the authors, John Hotchner and Richard Drews, have carefully identified these many elements.

It is going to take some time for most of us to pore over these pages and clearly understand the many ways that the *Manual* expands and defines these literature types and sets out the manner in which they are to be judged.

We invite comment on this work in future issues of *TPC*. It appears that the first time these criterion will be applied will be at the next APS StampShow this August. Perhaps we can find a speaker for the WU30 Breakfast who can help us understand this better.

1984 The Play

With the onset of "Alternative Facts" and "Fake News" that we mentioned earlier, the book *1984*, written in wartime 1945, has become a best seller again. It is checked out at most libraries. At the same time a play version just opened in New York at the Hudson Theater. The reviewer found it "disturbing." The emphasis is on the main character whose job is to rewrite history to suit the current and changing government storyline. His torture scene, which I recall was only touched on in the movie, apparently is rather extensive.

This and the rather controversial settings for the recent Broadway production of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* make these old works much too current. *Caesar* got pulled in a few weeks. No telling how long *1984* will last.

Website and Newsletter Contests

This editor could not find the sites in www.stamps.org for the website and newsletter contests during a hunt for them in early spring. A note from Judy Johnson at APS gave me the address <https://stamps.org/Club-Benefits> (under Chapter Contests).

Microsoft Spelling

I once lost the help of a proofer who so strongly objected to my letting the word "colour" be used in an article by a Canadian author about a Canadian group of stamps.

On page 11 we review a Canadian catalog using the word "colour". But on that page my MS spellchecker accepts the British spelling. In all other parts of this issue, here too, it marks that usage misspelled with the evil red underline. Somehow it knows.

Dave

Patricia A. Kaufmann

Patricia A. Kaufmann, a professional stamp dealer, is currently chair of the Board of Vice-Presidents of the American Philatelic Society. As an author and editor, she has excelled in promoting Confederate philately. For seventeen years, she served as co-editor and editor of *The Confederate Philatelist* and as editor-in-chief of the Grand Award winning *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*. Her prolific research and publications have made her an esteemed spokesperson for Confederate postal history.

To the benefit of her readers, Trish masterfully blends history and philately. A lifelong collector and storyteller, she loves to uncover the hidden stories and human-interest connections from postal covers. "Human-interest stories," she explains, "attract both Confederate specialists as well as others who simply love history and might consider taking up Confederate postal history as a new area. Serious philatelic research is very important to me as well—both stamp nuances and new discoveries in postal history. I find that being a dealer is very beneficial to that end, in that I see more material than the average collector and my network is large." She continues, "The most seemingly mundane example suddenly comes alive, speaking to us from the past."

Trish has been section editor of *The Confederate Stampless Cover Catalog*. In addition, she has contributed to the 1986 *New Dietz Confederate States*

Catalog and annual updates of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*. She has written hundreds of philatelic research articles for *The American Philatelist*, *The American Stamp Dealer and Collector*, *The Confederate Philatelist*, *The Congress Book*, *Kelleher's Stamp Collectors Connection*, *La Posta*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Way Markings*, *The SPA Journal*, National

Postal Museum's Arago online data base collection and other publications. Trish's definitive published research on the 3-cent 1861 Postmaster Provisionals resulted in an entirely new Confederate section beginning with the 2000 *Scott Specialized Catalogue* and the CSA Catalog.

She has received the August Dietz Award for research and writing twice. In 2015, she received the CP (*Confederate Philatelist*) Writers' Award for the best article. She has won numerous exhibitor awards, including Grand and Reserve Grand Awards in national philatelic competitions for her Confederate and Classic Valentine collections. In 2016, she received the Elizabeth Pope Award for Lifetime Contributions to Philately.

Trish has held many positions in both professional and volunteer philately, including auctioneer, President of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, Chair of the APS Dealer Advisory Council, and member of APS committees, the CSA Authentication Service, Council of Postal Collectors and Council of Philatelists.

In addition to philately, Trish enjoys scuba diving, choral singing and church leadership roles. She is married to Capt. Darryl Boyer.



Patricia A. Kaufmann receiving an award from John Hotchner

Robert Leslie Markovits

Throughout his life, Robert Leslie Markovits (1937-2015) researched and regularly published philatelic articles. He was both an attorney and stamp dealer (Quality Investors Ltd), and at one time, Bob even had worked as a newspaper sports editor. However, his exhibits and publications have immortalized him in the hobby. His love of nineteenth- and early- twentieth century stamps and postal history are well known. He focused on “back of the book” issues and their use, including special delivery issues, the ten-cent registry stamp, officials, postal stationery, and newspaper and periodical issues. He ventured to the front of the book for Bureau issues and several special interest stamps.

As an author, Bob had written over one hundred scholarly articles, the “Numbers Game” column for *The Bureau Specialist* and the definitive study *United States: The 10 cents Registry stamp of 1911*. He contributed to more than a dozen periodicals, including the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, *First Days*, *La Posta*, *Linn’s*

Stamp News, *Locals and Carriers Journal*, *United States Specialist*, *Postal History Journal*, *American Philatelic Congress Books*, *1869 Times* and *Postal Stationery*. He compiled proof and essay price lists of Clarence Brazer and contributed to other published works, including the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog*. He entered the online world with a website on U.S. special delivery issues.

As a successful exhibitor, Bob won the Champion of Champions, the top exhibiting honor in the United States, in 1999 with his “U.S. Officials 1873-1884,”

which also won four large golds at the international level. His special delivery exhibit received three international large golds. His one-frame exhibit, “The Dollar Values of the U.S. State Department Stamps of 1873-84,” won the Grand Award at the first national one-frame competition in 1993; his exhibit of the 1908 Helmet of Mercury stamp won the Collectors Club single-frame competition in 2006.

In addition to exhibiting and writing, Bob served as an officer of the Collectors Club of New York and the Spellman Museum. He received recognition for

his philatelic contributions during his lifetime, including the Bureau Issues Association’s Hopkinson Memorial Literature Award in 1960, the best article award of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 1989 and election to the Bureau Issues Association’s United States Stamp Society Hall of Fame in 2011.

Bob once described his passion for collecting and studying philatelic literature by noting, “With a philatelic library covering

approximately 2,500 shelf feet of space, with more than 25,000 U.S. auction catalogues, and with more than twenty drawers of philatelic notes, I am a true lover of philatelic literature and the information that makes it available to the collector and professional.”

Bob contributed to future philatelic investigation through his enormous collection of research papers housed at the APRL in Bellefonte. In addition to the Writers Unit Hall of Fame, the American Philatelic Society honors this “legendary philatelist” in 2017 with induction into its Hall of Fame.



Robert Leslie Markovits

APS Hall of Fame Announcement

As this issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* is being prepared for press the American Philatelic Society announced that Robert Markovits, Barbara Mueller and Irwin Winberg had been chosen for the APS Hall of Fame.



Hall of Fame 2017 continued on page 5

Patrick Henry Woodward

Patrick Henry Woodward (1833-1917) brought the crime detection of the United States Post Office Department to popular attention in 1876 with a runaway bestseller. *Guarding the Mails, or the Secret Service, of the Post Office Department* was written after Woodward had been named Chief of Special Agents, under Post Master General Marshall Jewell, after having served as an agent from 1864 to 1875 “in the detection, pursuit and capture of depredators upon the mails.”

The book was published by Dustin, Gilman & Co. of Hartford CT, Woodward’s home base, in two bindings: “in the finest imported silk-finished cloth, with elaborate design in black and gold” at \$3; and “in sheep binding, library style, sprinkled edges” at \$3.50. The price brought the volume within reach of most Americans, and it was sold by traveling agents (via a ‘dummy book’ and subscription list, a publishing innovation perfected in Hartford).

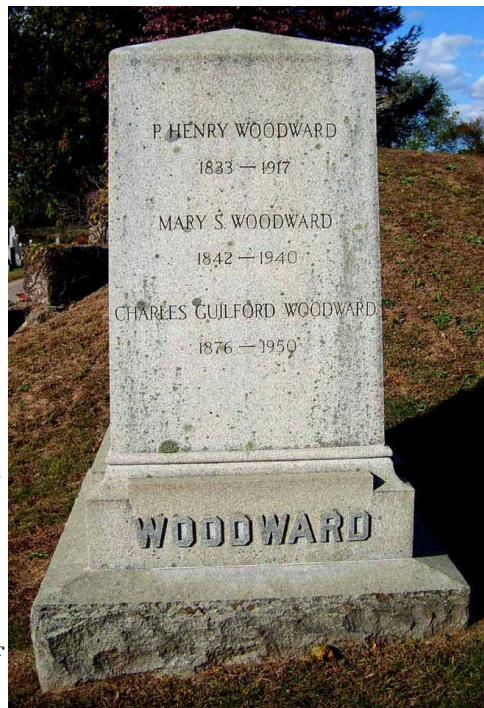
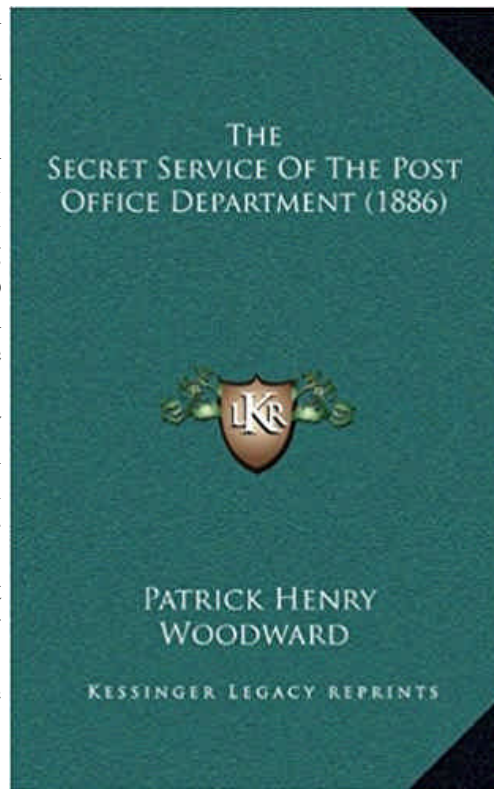
The ‘true detective’ nature of the incidents described by Woodward, aided by the myriad woodcut illustrations, established the postal service for much of the citizenry as a highly professional and successful police force. The book was so popular that it went through several editions, and Woodward expanded it in 1886, under a new title: *The Secret Service of the Post Office Department, as exhibited in the wonderful exploits of Special Agents or Inspectors in the detection, pursuit, and capture of depredators upon the mails, with a complete description of the many means and complicated contrivances of the wily and unscrupulous to defraud the public; also, an accurate*

account of the Famous Star Route Frauds, published by Winter & Company in Hartford, again by subscription. Although Woodward was no longer in the POD inspection service, he acknowledged the assistance of agents’ case notebooks. The appended chapter has provided for 20th century researchers a good summation of the Star Route fraud situation that had ended with a trial in 1883.

Sanford J. Durst, publisher of philatelic references, reprinted the 1886 edition in 1978. *Linn’s Stamp News* announcement of the reprint credits Woodward with uncovering an entire area of postal history unknown to most collectors. “Hailed as the ‘invisible agents’ of the general post office, [special agents] were among the most highly regarded of all public officers, precursors of the private eye” (Richard John, *Spreading the News*, 1995). In 2010, Kessinger Publishing issued another reprint. The Smithsonian National Postal Museum in 2014 opened one of its most popular exhibits: *Behind the Badge, The U.S. Postal Inspection Service*; Woodward’s work was used by curators, along with James Holbrook’s 1855 book of agent tales, for interpreting the 19th century.

After 15 years with the USPOD, Woodward went on to positions of responsibility in Hartford (secretary and treasurer of the Mather Electric Co., secretary of the Hartford Board of Trade, etc.) and wrote histories of Hartford insurance and banking institutions.

We honor Woodward for having written an influential work on the inspection service of the post office that was also an early true crime bestseller.



Gravestone at Windham, CT

A Baker's Dozen of Things I've Learned About Writing

Steve Zwillinger

I've had the opportunity to do quite a bit of philatelic writing over the past few years. I've learned as much about writing, I think, as I have learned about subjects I write about. It seems the more I write, the more I know about writing. The more I know about writing, the better my articles are. Some of the things I've learned are:

1. Capture thoughts when they come to mind.

It pays to keep a notebook or smart phone handy to capture thoughts or even ways of phrasing something that comes to mind. Ideas and thoughts can be so fragile that sometimes, if they are not captured when you have the chance, you may lose them for good. I carry a tiny pocket notebook for writing down ideas.

2. Stay focused on your subject.

Virtually every topic has elements of secondary and tertiary importance that can be written about. Many subjects can easily lead into tangentially related areas. Sometimes it's great to have a vehicle to be able to work in something you've wanted to write about. *Resist these temptations.* Unless you're writing a broad overview of a subject, you are most likely working with an idea that can be expressed in a topic sentence. Focus on that. Writing an article is more of an opportunity to serve your readers than it is an opportunity to show how much you know.

3. Choose your title – don't let an editor choose it for you. A good title is worth a lot: it can be engaging and attract interest. Readers who might not otherwise look at your work with a 'boring' title might look if the title sings out to them. Sometimes a title can simply describe what you're writing about such as "A Baker's Dozen of Things I've Learned About Writing".

4. Try 'bookends' for an article. Ideally the ending of your article echoes the beginning. An article is stronger if the end is connected to the beginning rather than appearing as a stream of sequential ideas about a subject.

Having the closing refer back to the beginning or providing a resolution or summary of what the article opened with, makes for a more satisfying reading experience from the reader's perspective.

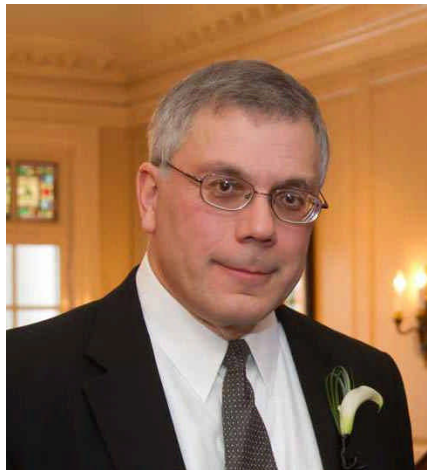
5. Consider suggesting informational resources. Some readers will like what you wrote and want to learn more about the subject. Make it easy for them: provide a reference to additional sources so readers can follow up on the subject. If your goal is to educate a reader, then helping a reader continue to learn more about the subject on their own is a great success.

6. Be selective in what you write about. Don't confuse being able to write about a particular topic with feeling like you should write about it. Unless you are a professional writer (and philatelic writing is unlikely to provide a lot of support) be selective in what you write. Choose subjects that interest you and are fun to write about. Philately is a hobby; don't make it like work. If a subject doesn't 'sing' to you perhaps you

should put it aside and choose a topic that gives you greater pleasure

7. Doing it right is better than doing it fast. Unless you are working on a deadline, you don't have to finish your article immediately. Make it right, not fast. In the same way that editors try to keep an inventory of material, it's ok for you to have an inventory of pieces you are working on and do not want to submit to an editor until you feel they are ready for publication. Writing is not an assembly line where you have to finish one before you begin the next.

8. Don't be afraid of controversy. It's ok if informed or opinionated (or both informed and opinionated) people disagree. It's only by the exchange of ideas that new thoughts emerge and older thoughts are proved or disproved as the case may be. Besides, you may be pleasantly surprised that what you think is



Dozen continued on page 7

controversial is not and you have helped to establish a consensus on your subject.

9. **You can start small.** You can start with any size piece you are comfortable with. Frequently there is a progression in an author's writing:

- Writing up a cover or cancellation or stamp
- Letter to the editor
- Short piece on a narrow topic
- Longer piece
- Very long article such as those that have appeared in the American Philatelic Congress Year Books
- Monograph for a society

An author frequently finds a comfort level in a particular style or length of article. There is no hierarchy of writing, only different kinds and different lengths.

10. **Have a reviewer.** It is very difficult to proof your own work. Don't rely upon an editor to proof your work. Frequently a proof reader checks for spelling and grammar. You want someone whose judgement you respect in raising questions about possible redundancy, logical flow, word choice, sequence of thoughts and if sufficient evidence is provided to buttress your points. The higher the quality article you provide, the greater the likelihood it will be published, and the greater the likelihood you may be asked to write again. In my case, I ask an adult son whose judgement I respect to provide an editorial review of virtually everything I write for publication. I'm tempted to show before and after versions of this column but I might be embarrassed. I prefer to print the good version. Also, it's a good idea to put the article aside when you finish and return to it a few days later with a fresh eye. I find that I usually replace pronouns or vague words with specific (in this case I replaced several instances of 'it' with 'article' in my final review.)

11. **Make it easy for your editor.** Use a grammar checker and spell checker. Make your submission as professional as possible. Include a header or footer with your name and the page number. If the journal is printed infrequently, you can even include as part of the header or footer the month and year in which you submit it so the editor will know how long he or

she has had it. Some editors work with multiple journals so you can also include a reference to the group or journal for which you are writing. When I sent this piece to the editor my header read "*Writer's Unit – Zwillinger - June 2017 - page 7*". Because I prefer to have a clear distinction between header copy and text, I use a different font and type size. Send a cover note providing full contact information and offering to make changes if the editor thinks they are needed.

12. **Build a relationship with the editor.** You want to get to know the editor of the journal in which you wish to publish. You can write query letters to introduce yourself and discuss what you would like to write. If you attend a stamp show or society meeting where the editor is going to be present, meet him or her. If you don't know him, perhaps one of your friends does and can introduce you. The editor determines what gets printed and when it gets printed. For some publications, the editor can request an article if he knows a writer who can handle the task. If you want to write more, working with an editor is key. You may even be able to write a regular column if you wish. There is no disadvantage to building an effective working relationship with your editor.

13. **Use illustrations.** If it's hard to say in words, try using a photo, illustration, diagram, or other visual guide for interpreting an item. Use just about anything that helps communicate or further explain a point you are trying to make.

Philatelic writing is a subset of professional or technical communication. These types of writing address the presentation and expansion of a central idea, strengthened with details and examples. The skills in one are transferrable to the other. Write. Enjoy it. Seeing your words in print is satisfying. The more you write, the more you know about writing. The more you know about writing, the better your articles will be.

Additional Resource: I found the Wikipedia entry "Wikipedia: Writing better articles" to be a very good guide for writing articles. Even though it is targeted to Wikipedia, it applies to almost all articles.

Steve Zwillinger
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APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting

Richard Drews and John M. Hotchner

APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting, compiled by Richard E. Drews and John M. Hotchner. Available at no cost via download as a PDF file from the American Philatelic Society website www.stamps.org.

The guidelines for judging literature were relegated to a 4-page supplemental chapter in the 6th edition of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging*. The guidelines have now metastasized into a 34-page behemoth released in April 2017. The new manual appeared without announcement on the APS website and its introduction was not communicated to the literature judges as of the time of this review. However, it is a known fact that extensive revision and expansion of the guidelines were in the making.

As with the 7th edition of the philatelic judging manual, this new booklet is important for judges as well as for authors, editors, publishers, webmasters and others involved with the preparation and communication of philatelic information. These new literature guidelines incorporate some of the new features of philatelic exhibiting—eight medal levels, use of points, and a new evaluation form for feedback. New guidelines include emphasis on submitting a synopsis with literature competition entries, major expansion of “literature” into electronic media, changes in apprenticing to become a literature judge, and suggestions for changes in new types and numbers of literature competitions.

This last item includes holding competitions every two years instead of annually, limiting the categories, alleviating the burden of literature competitions by using two geographically close national shows, and introducing one-time competitions in a specialty area by larger societies when they hold one of their national conventions. The reality is that annual literature events have dropped from six national venues to the current two: APS StampShow and Chicagopex. The most dramatic change is the expansion of electronic media beyond CDs and DVDs to include websites,

message boards, and blogs. For example a society website could supplement its journal by publishing timely updates, auctions, convention news, and indexes to the printed or electronic journal. The new guidelines continue to exclude show programs and club newsletters as their critiques are already covered by the APS Chapter Activities Committee.

The criteria for evaluation continue unchanged from the previous form for treatment: originality, significance, and research; technical matters; and production. However, the elements of the criteria are dis-

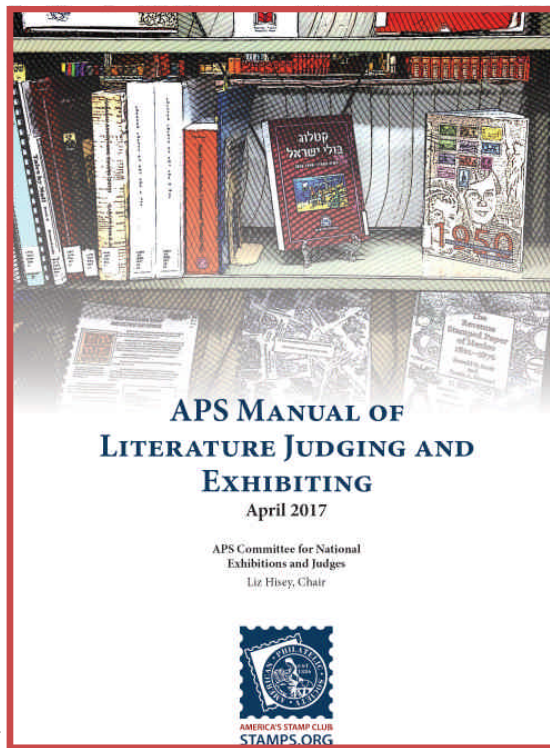
cussed in greater detail in the new manual. There is also expanded discussion of the categories to clarify the eligible entries. These cover handbooks and monographs including compendiums; society periodicals and journals; catalogs (general, specialized, auction); philatelic articles and columns; and electronic media. There are suggestions on how websites can play a role in accessing and updating by means of supplemental information.

Many topics covered in detail in this new manual include the role of the literature chief judge, the new expanded medal levels and associated points, the requirements of a WSP show to receive permission to hold literature competitions, apprenticing to become an accredited literature

judge and chief judge, and the role of the APS Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ) in administering all aspects of literature competitions/exhibitions. New emphasis is provided on the responsibilities of the literature exhibitor and the preparation and submission of a synopsis with the entry form.

Rich Drews and John Hotchner are to be commended for clarifying and enhancing the process of literature competitions. As with philatelic (frame) exhibits, there are new categories that will take time for judges to get used to. I believe APS literature judging seminars are planned to help both exhibitors and judges to learn how to improve communication media and to evaluate them in a positive manner.

Alan Warren



Reviews

Print & Electronic

Reviews in TPC are indexed at
www.wu30.org Journal page.
Searchable by Google.



Aspects of American Postal History

Compiled and edited by Peter Martin. 224 pages, 8 3/4 by 11 1/4 inches, hardbound, La Posta Publications, Fredericksburg, VA, 2016. \$65 plus \$5 shipping in the United States, from La Posta Publications, PO Box 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403.

Sixteen different authors have contributed articles to this fascinating monograph. Many of the names will be familiar to readers of *La Posta*, the quarterly journal of American postal history, as their bylines have appeared there as well. The wide variety of topics revealed in this book not only invites the reader to browse but also to pick it up from time to time to inform oneself of a new subject.

The well-known dealer, author, and postal historian of the Confederate States of America, Patricia Kaufmann, corrects previous errors regarding the dates that the original six states seceded and then joined the Confederacy. She also confirms the specifics of another ten states and territories that also joined.

John Hotchner offers a primer on how to go about collecting auxiliary markings on covers, and shows over a dozen unusual examples that reflect the requirements of post office operations. Michigan postal historian Paul Petosky profiles the post offices that operated on Drummond Island, Mich., over the years. The island is located in Lake Huron near Michigan's Upper Peninsula where it borders Canada.

Christine Sanders shares her unusual collection of U.S. stamps and covers that were cancelled on Christmas Day, December 25. She begins with the stampless period and continues to the end of the 19th century. She provides a lot of postal history details along the way. Social history is the underlying theme of Jesse Spector's analysis of two covers that stimulated him to explore slavery in America.

Eric Knapp is a longtime student of Alaska postal history and editor of *The Alaskan Philatelist*. His contribution to this book examines the civil censorship of mail to and from the territory of Alaska during WWII. Much of the mail was inspected at the censorship office in Seattle.

Hotel corner cards are a popular collecting area. Many are actually advertising covers with attractive images of the hotel. Brady Hunt narrows this topic to illustrated hotel mail of Oklahoma, and he provides interesting historic tidbits in his narrative.

Collectors of the 1954 United States Liberty series include Roland Austin, who tantalizes the reader with elusive solo uses of these stamps. Examples of these rarities include the Silkote paper 2-cent on cover, the tagged 3-cent with untagged 2-cent on a *Look* magazine cover, the 4-cent on an airmail return receipt post card, the 6-cent on treaty airmail to Mexico, the 10-cent on a private aerogramme to Denmark, and the 15-cent used to collect postage due among others.

Albert "Chip" Briggs provides some rarities of the 1938 Presidential series showing unusual rates, auxiliary markings, destinations, and during wartime events. Richard Hemmings expands his award-winning article that first appeared in a 2012 issue of the *La Posta* journal. His focus is the 4-block long Cortland Street in lower Manhattan. Much of the area was torn down to make way for the

World Trade Center. He takes readers on a tour of the businesses that once lined Cortland Street using correspondence, corner card envelopes, photographs and postal history.

Charles Neyhart recreates the operation of the Portland, OR, post office with the postal stations at the 1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition using postal history items and photographs. The era of the highway post office is revived by William Keller who explains the operation of this service, and tells collectors how to identify and look for HPO material.

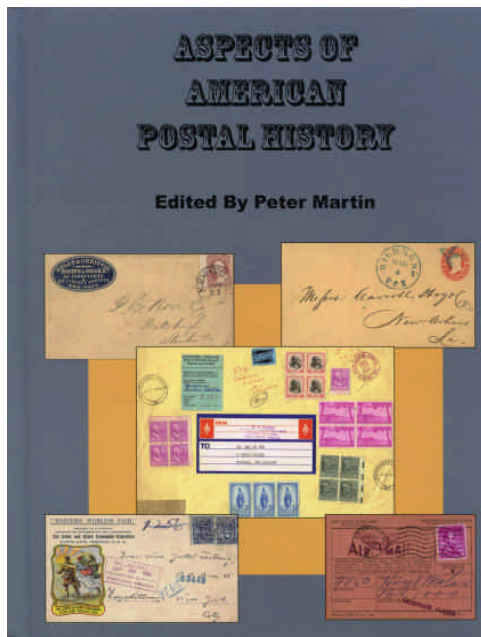
One aspect of modern U.S. postal history is the establishment of contract stations. The post office often used substations in the early part of the 20th century. Kelvin Kindahl contrasts those operations with the recent spate of somewhat controversial contract stations established at retail store locations.

The late Charles Fricke was an enthusiastic student of post and postal cards. He used a couple of picture postcards to trigger his description of Chicago's underground tunnel system. Originally built to carry telephone cables, the tunnel system was later used to carry freight, coal, and ashes. For a brief experimental period of two years it also was used to carry mail, but the contract was terminated due to lack of timeliness.

The extremely broad arena of military postal history is given an overview by Sergio Lugo, who also edits the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*. He defines what types of material are included in this field and describes censorship, diplomatic mail, soldiers' mail, Army Post Offices (APOs), prisoner of war mail, YMCA mail, illustrated mail, and many other aspects of this specialty.

Ralph Nafziger concludes *Aspects of American Postal History* with a chapter on first day covers and their associated postal history. Using the 1948 3-cent Oregon Territory issue he explores the U.S. Post Office Department's steps in designing and issuing the stamp, followed by

Aspects Continued on Page 11



The One-Cent Magenta: Inside the Quest to Own the Most Valuable Stamp in the World by James Barron. 288 pages, 5 ¼ by 7 ¼ inches, hardbound, Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill, NC, 2017. ISBN 978-1616205188, \$23.95 from Amazon and other booksellers.

For those who would yawn and wonder why the story of the world's most famous postage stamp, the one-cent magenta British Guiana, is being retold, think again. James Barron's stimulating research into the history of this philatelic icon and his lucid updating of the story and the key players in the drama, results in a very delectable read.

In the first two chapters Barron relates how he ran into a Sotheby's auctioneer, David N. Redden, and learned that Redden would be the one to sell the famous stamp in 2014. The sale itself, before a standing room only audience of about 200, was over in about two minutes, and set a new record of nearly \$9.5 million.

After setting the stage for the stamp's creation in 1856 as a provisional needed by Postmaster Dalton in Georgetown, British Guiana, Barron then delves into the history of the stamp from its first discernible owner, 12-year old Louis Vernon Vaughan. The well-known travels of the one-cent magenta follow—first to collector Neil Ross McKinnon and then on to dealer Thomas Ridpath, followed by its first distinguished owner, Philippe Arnold de la Renotière von Ferrary.

From there Barron traces ownership to Arthur Hind and his estranged wife Ann Hind, Frederick Trouton Small,

Irwin Weinberg and his consortium, John DuPont, and to its current owner Stuart Weitzman. Along the way the author regales readers with historic background and anecdotes of many of the hobby's great names. It is these byways and tangents that bring life to what otherwise is a well-trod storyline.

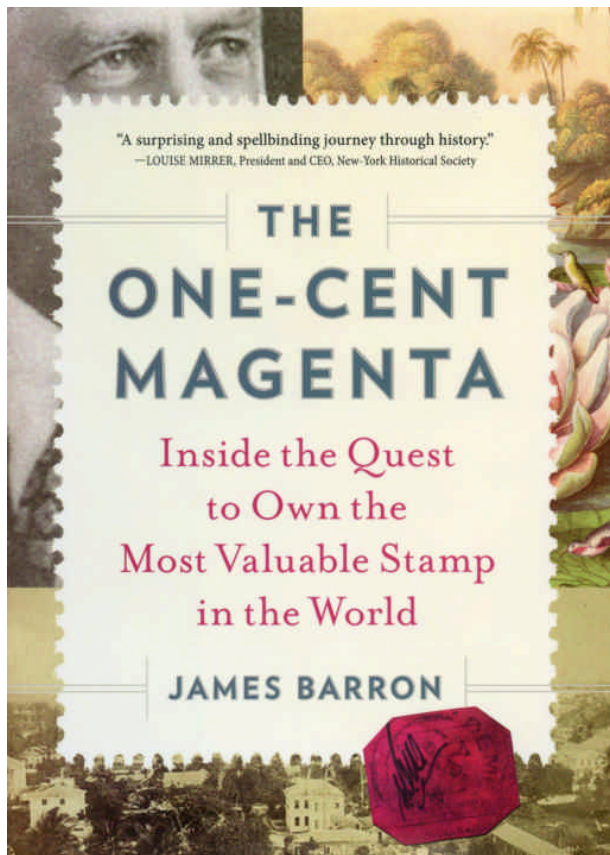
Some of the background detail he provides includes the purpose of provisional stamps, the origin of the term "philately," the myriad opinions and expert examinations borne by this tiny piece of paper, and some thoughts on what drives collectors to pursue their needs to acquire. However, the most tantalizing tidbits are the many anecdotes that Barron uncovered, relating not only to the owners of the philatelic Holy Grail, but also the many personalities in the hobby who played important roles along the way.

These names represent a Who's Who of philately and include Rowland Hill, Edward Loines Pemberton, Maurice Burrus, Finbar Kenny, Edward Denny Bacon, Michael Sefi, Robert Odenweller, Allen Kane, and many others. Barron's careful research is documented with over 200 citations to his sources. One of his strengths is to bring so many apparently disparate elements together to reinforce his main story.

His style results in a thoroughly fascinating tale full of little twists and turns that maintain readers' interest the entire way. His skills,

honed as a reporter for the *New York Times*, serve Barron well, adding new light to a familiar tale. The book should appeal to non-collectors as well. One shortcoming is the lack of an index, especially of the people who helped shape the journey of the world's most famous stamp.

Alan Warren



Best 2016 Article Award for *Postal History Journal*

The Associate Editors of the *Postal History Journal* announce the Best Article for 2016 award to Thomas Lera and Sandra Starr for their "Flathead War Party, The Story Behind the Hamilton, Montana Post Office Mural" (published in *PHJ Issue 163* February, 2016). Lera is Research Chair, Emeritus, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, editor of the award-winning *Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately*, and two volumes of *Select Papers of The Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposia*, all published by the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press. Starr is Senior Research, Emerita, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. See her preface - "About Indians at the Post Office and Murals as Public Art" - to the online exhibit *Indians at the Post Office: Native Themes in New Deal-Era Murals* www.postal.museum.si.edu.

Aspects continued from Page 9

postal history aspects of first day postmarks, unofficial cancels, the use of cachets and autographs to enhance postal items, and commercial uses of the stamp including unusual rates and destinations.

The book is well edited and nicely laid out with wonderful illustrations that seem to jump off the pages. The over-

riding theme is that the postal history of the United States of America is extremely rich in depth and at the same time entails a very broad range of topics, any one of which a collector can devote a lifetime to the study thereof.

Alan Warren

The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue 2017 Edition by E.S.J. van Dam. Bridgenorth, Ontario, Canada: ESJ van Dam Ltd., 2017. Spiral bound, 6 x 9 inch, 220 pp., color illus.

ISBN 978-0-920229-05-7

\$32 postpaid by airmail from: ESJ van Dam Ltd., POB 300, Bridgenorth, Ont, Canada K0L1H0; E-mail: erlingvandam@gmail.com; Website: www.canadarevenuestamps.com.

After nearly a decade, Canadian revenue stamp collectors finally have an updated eighth edition of Erling van Dam's popular *The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue*. The 2017 edition was released at the end of April.

Every new edition includes more listings, more variety and more information. Unfortunately, the time between catalogue editions has grown to eight years. Previous editions were produced in 1982, 1984, 1987, 1991, 1995, 2001 and 2009.

Van Dam, who has been in business since 1970, is the leading dealer of Canadian revenues and his catalogue, one of only two authoritative references for the wide range of Canadian revenues, is the only one with regular updates. Still, the eight-year lag is far too long. The catalogues should be produced on a regular schedule in the two to four year range. Fortunately for collectors, van Dam reports that the next edition will be in 2020 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of his being in the revenue business.

Of note, after five editions published by the Unitrade Press of Toronto, the 2017 edition is again being produced by E.S.J. van Dam Ltd. and printed in Canada. The 2009 edition was printed in China by Unitrade and that was one of the reasons van Dam chose to resume printing the catalogue. He previously published the first two editions in 1982 and 1984. Unitrade published the 1987 through 2009 editions.

The 2017 edition looks much like its predecessor. It has the same cover depicting Canadian revenue stamps that

has been used since the 1984 edition, but the catalogue name is now in a vertical box on the right edge. It features the sturdy spiral binding that was first introduced as an option with the 1995 edition and became the standard with the 2001 edition. All pages lie flat when open, making for ease of use.

The 2017 catalogue has 220 pages, 36 more than the last edition's 184 pages (which was a 36-page increase from the 2001 edition). It features about 1,100 high quality color illustrations on slick coated stock. Listings, mostly in a two-column format, show the van Dam catalogue number; the stamp denomination, colour, perf and watermark; and prices for unused and used revenues. The catalogue prices are in Canadian dollars and should be considered as retail prices for the current market. There is also a five-page index although, for some reason, it was not paginated.

Each major section has color-coded tabs on the right side of the page that can be seen on the page edges when the catalogue is closed. This is a thoughtful touch, introduced in the 2009 edition, that makes finding sections easier.

The catalogue includes the major federal revenues and those issued by Canada's provinces and territories. That includes the federal, provincial, and territorial Duck, Wildlife Conservations and Hunting stamps.

It also includes 10 subject areas, such as Telephone and Telegraph Franks, Prisoner of War Franks, bank stamps, perfins, meters, and tags. All are valuable references,

but I find the "Excise Tax Revenue Meters," compiled by Dave Hannay, and the "Canada Revenue Perfins," compiled by J.C. Johnson and G. Thomasson, to be two difficult areas that are especially well done.

You'll also find the expanded coverage that has been the hallmark of every new edition. The 2017 edition adds the Vancouver Poll Tax receipts and the Manitoba Electronic Equipment Serviceman's License stamps.

The back cover notes that: "All currently known Cana-



Revenues continued on Page 12

dian revenue stamps are listed and priced.” However, while most categories are indeed included in the catalogue, two major areas are not. Neither tobacco, nor liquor, are listed and the inclusion of these groups, while probably doubling the size of the current catalogue, are essential to making this a one-stop reference. A separate section for revenue proofs and specimens and the inclusion of a complete listing of the popular playing card precancels would also help to round out the catalogue.

In addition, there are four items that would improve the catalogue:

1. Increase the font size of the chapter and section headers to make them easier to locate. The table of contents is thorough and you can find the correct section by going to the proper page number listed there, but if you’re trying to find a chapter or section by scanning the catalogue you’ll have to look really hard because the current type size blends in with the listings.

2. Provide set values where appropriate so that users can quickly determine the price of a set without doing a lot of math work.

3. Improve the spacing between images and text. There are numerous examples where the images touch or slightly overlap the text above.

4. Expand the preface to better explain the catalogue numbering philosophy, listing criteria, color descriptions, grading, and valuing, and to discuss current trends in the marketplace.

Canadian rarities are much more affordable than their American counterparts and the market for Canadian revenues continues to be strong, especially for rarer stamps that have an increasing number of collectors going after a very limited supply.

The van Dam catalogue is an easy-to-use and essential reference for identifying and valuing Canadian revenue stamps. With the current exchange rate, the retail price of Can. \$27.95 makes it a bargain.

Peter Martin

Square Knots & Penguins: The Antarctic Scout Philately Connection by Terrence H. Dunn. 33 pages in PDF format, Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI), 2016. www.SOSSI.org, click on the tab “Topics H-Z,” then click on “Polar Philately.”

Terrence Dunn uses the stamps, cachets, and related materials about Antarctica to connect with the topic of Boy Scouts and scouting. He begins with a brief history of the ship RRS *Discovery*, the research vessel used by several famous explorers (Scott, Shackleton, Mawson) that is depicted on the stamps of the Falkland Islands, British Antarctic Territory, Australian Antarctic Territory, and other countries. Most of the stamps are illustrated in color. Late in the life of this ship it was obtained by the British Scout Association, moored on the Thames River at London, and used as a Sea Scout training ship.

In the next chapter Dunn focuses on “The Polar Gentleman,” namely Jean-Baptiste Charcot who sailed in Antarctic waters and is depicted on many stamps. In France he helped to establish the country’s first scouting organization, *Eclaireurs de France*. Charcot served as its president for over ten years.

The 18 year old scout James William Slessor Marr served on Shackleton’s vessel *Quest*, which anchored at Tristan da Cunha in 1922. Here Marr met with the few scouts on the island and presented them with a signed pho-

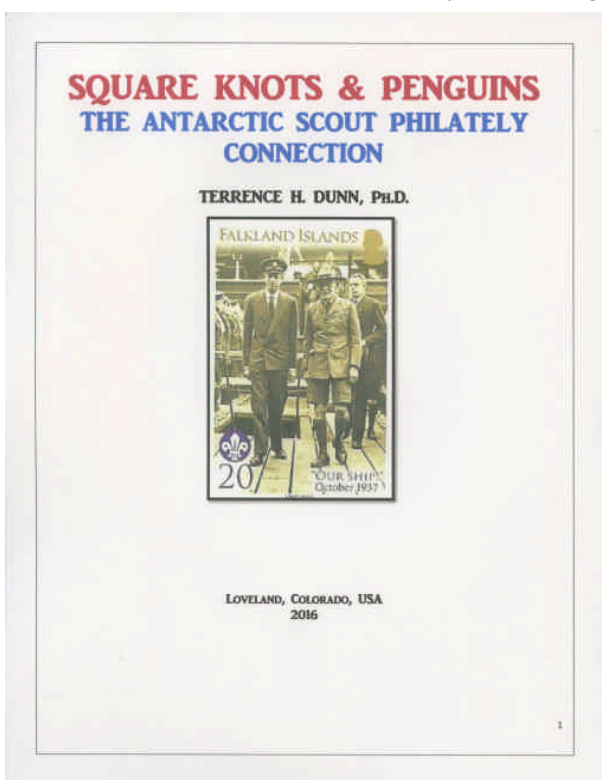
tograph of Lord Baden-Powell. Some stamps of Tristan and South Georgia depict Marr. He also wrote a book about the *Quest* expedition, *Into the Frozen South* (1923). Later Lt. Commander Marr headed Operation Tabarin during WWII.

The 19 year old Eagle Scout Paul Siple was selected to join Byrd’s first Antarctic expedition where he trained the sled dogs. Siple then served as a biologist on Byrd’s second Antarctic expedition and continued to work on Antarctic projects the rest of his life. He authored several books about his experiences, and autographed many covers relating to his activities.

Dunn touches on the efforts of several New Zealand Boy Scouts who participated in three expeditions during the 1960s. He concludes with a chapter on “Antarctic Miscellany” that mentions the 1947 Ronne expedition, scouts on a Chile expedition in 1983, the United Kingdom’s Chief Scout Edward Michael “Bear” Grylls, and shows a number of Antarctic Scout related covers from Belgium, Australia, and Brazil.

The author provides a list of books and web sites used as resources, and a list of the stamps relating to his topics with the Scott catalogue numbers. An index would enhance utility of the book. Dunn’s work provides a jumping off point for those who might want to create a topical or thematic exhibit on Scouting related to Antarctica.

Alan Warren



APS Newsletter Competition for 2016

Judy Johnson, Manager

Gold

Calgary Philatelist (Calgary Philatelic Society),
edited by Dale C. Speirs, Calgary, AB, Canada
Hollywood Philatelist (Hollywood Stamp Club),
edited by Enrique Setaro, Miami, FL
Knoxville Philatelic Society News (Knoxville Philatelic Society),
edited by Tom Broadhead, Knoxville, TN
The Souvenir Sheet (Lincoln Stamp Club),
edited by David M. Frye, Denton, NE
Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (Philatelic Society of Lancaster County),
edited by Dr. Paul Petersen, Lancaster, PA
Stamp Chatter (Sequoia Stamp Club),
edited by James W. Giacomazzi, Redwood City, CA

Vermeil

Buffalo Stamp Club (Buffalo Stamp Club),
edited by Alfred Carroccia and Alan Davis, East Aurora, NY
Stamping Around (Mid-Cities Stamp Club),
edited by Peter C. Elias, Plano, TX
The Postmaster (New Haven Philatelic Society),
edited by Campbell Buchanan, Branford, CT

The Oklahoma Philatelist (Oklahoma Philatelic Society),
edited by Reginald L. Hofmaier, Yukon, OK
Palo Duro Philatelist (Palo Duro Philatelic Society),
edited by John A. Abrams, Albuquerque, NM
The Stamp Express (Southern Nevada Stamp Club),
edited by Mrs. Melodye D. McGroarty, Las Vegas, NV

Silver

GRSC Newsletter (Greater Richmond Stamp Club),
edited by Marcel Borris, Midlothian, VA
The Magnifying Glass (Wyoming Valley Stamp Club),
edited by Ron Breznay, Hanover Township, PA

Silver-Bronze

Manchester Stamp Club Newsletter (Manchester Stamp Club),
edited by Richard E. Olson, Fremont, NH

The deadline for entries in the 2017 APS Newsletter Competition for newsletters produced in the year 2017 is January 15, 2018.



Editor Position Wanted

New Member Robert Conley reports that he is editor for the *State Revenue Society News* and *The Revenue Society Journal* and has the capacity to edit another journal. If you need an editor please contact him at revenueblue@hotmail.com.



WU30 Annual Breakfast at StampShow

The WU30 Annual breakfast will be held at APS StampShow 2017 on August 6, 2017 at 8:30AM in solon 6, 7 and 8 in the Marriott, Richmond, VA.

The breakfast will be a buffet with scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon, pan fried potatoes and mixed fruit.

The speaker will be WU30 HOF honoree Donna Houseman, editor of Linn's Stamp News. In addition we hope to have a knowledgeable literature judge who can field questions about the new *APS Manual of Literature Exhibiting and Judging*.

We Get Letters (sometimes)

Responses to Questionnaire to the Editors.

Dave,

Here's how I handle the whole issue of saving, archiving and making available our club's newsletters.

I took over the Mid-Cities Stamp Club newsletter *Stamping Around* in July 2001. I used Microsoft Word for the first issue, got extremely frustrated with it and switched to Microsoft Publisher the next month (my current version is still the 2003 version – works fine on Windows 7 Pro 64-bit). When finished with each 10-page newsletter, I immediately create a PDF copy of it (and usually both in “standard” and “high-quality print” versions). Some day I might upgrade to a new version of Publisher, but older “PUB” files should still be readable. I do own the actual Adobe Acrobat Creator (the Publisher 2003 version doesn't have a built-in PDF creator like the current version).

A key concern is using software that is a “major player”, such as Microsoft; lesser known software may not be around 10 to 20 years later (I used to do a lot of exhibit pages in Geoworks Ensemble in the early 1990's, a great software during the days of DOS and Windows v3.1, but no current Windows software can open up any of the old Geoworks files; same goes for Enable/OA, Framework and other major players from the late 1980's and early 1990's!!).

I then proceeded to scan into PDF files all previous printed copies of the club's newsletter that I could round up, all the way back to 1986 (with the exception of two issues). So now the club has an archive of practically all newsletters that were ever sent to members (for some reason, there were no newsletters between the mid-1970's and early 1986, probably just mailed postcards with meeting announcements).

To preserve these PDF files, I copy them unto multiple hard drives, as well as cut CD's or data-DVD's and have sent those to several philatelic libraries (such as the APRL

and the Wineburgh Philatelic Library here in Dallas). These files take up approx. 1 GB of file space.

While our club has an official website at www.mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com, the storage space that we are allotted is only around 40 MB, so we cannot use it for online newsletter storage. I got around that problem in 2 ways:

1) I created a private Yahoo Group for the club (only paid members are allowed) and since Yahoo gives us 2 GB of storage, it is holding 30+ years of newsletters and we'll be set for quite a while into the future.

2) I created a (free) website at webs.com; that site is available to anyone on the planet and allows me to store about 2+ years of newsletters (see <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm>). The webs.com site is super easy to create and maintain by anyone (if you know how to click a mouse and “copy” and “paste”, you're set!).

The only major issue with both these methods is that they're “free”. If some day, either of these companies decide that offering free websites or webspace isn't a good business model any more, then it all goes away (remember “Geocities”?). But, since I regularly send both electronic and printed copies of the newsletter to the APS and Wineburgh libraries, we should always have copies of the newsletter available in the future!

While I realize that 20 years ago it was a bit more difficult to save or archive copies of newsletters electronically, now there's really no excuse to not do this. It takes very little time and it's easy to make the newsletters available both privately and publicly at virtually no cost.

Plus, since I'm an editor, I like to be able to have a copy of all items that I've published! Plus sometimes, it is kind of interesting to read newsletters from 20+ years ago; funny, even back then, editor's were always asking for articles! Sound familiar?

Peter Elias

Editor Mid Cities Stamp Club *Stamping Around*



David:

Thank you for the feedback on the questionnaire.

It turns out that The Society for Czechoslovak Philately is doing pretty well based on the comments that you make. Thanks to the efforts of our former Librarian, Dr. Mark Wilson, we have an Interactive Index DVD of our first 70 years of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* (1939-2009) which allows our members to look up any article by topic, author, or stamp (by Scott or POFIS number) — and immediately see that article. We are currently in the process of updating that DVD to include 2010-2015.

The Interactive Index DVD is not for sale. We decided instead to make it a free benefit to any new member who asks for it.

Even prior to this DVD, a former editor's wife (Anne Vondra, editor Mirko Vondra) had compiled a 146 page 20th Century Subject Index, 1939-1999 (no articles, but

you knew where to look in past issues for your article of interest).

I have been the editor since 1997 (20+ years now) of our publication, and after years of searching, have been very fortunate to find an anticipated excellent replacement, member Keith Hart. As for now, we are co-editors. We have just put out our first edition, Winter 2017, and I anticipate that he will eventually take over completely (I am now 77).

You can increase your number to 6 of readers who are joining up to WU30, I will send in my membership soon.

Editor's Note: We see that Lou actually did sign up. Thanks Much.

Ludvik “Lou” Svoboda

Co-editor, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*

Society for Czechoslovak Philately

www.csphilately.org





Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary Report 2017 Q1

Our thanks goes to all members who have paid their dues through 2017 or even later. However, if the line above your name in the mailing block indicates that your membership expired 2015 or 2016 your dues are unpaid and you are receiving this issue as a reminder that they are unpaid.

We would also encourage donations to the society beyond your annual dues. Even if your dues are paid for 2017 or beyond such a donation is encouraged. We thank all who pay their dues from this notice and who make contributions in advance.

About Writers Unit #30

Purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

Join Us Today

Membership includes a subscription to *The Philatelic Communicator*. Membership applications received by October 1 will be recorded as members for that calendar year and will receive all four quarterly issues of the *Philatelic Communicator* for that year. Applications received after October 1 will be recorded as members for the following calendar year.

A membership application may be downloaded from the Writers Unit #30 website at www.wu30.org. Existing members are encouraged to download this form and give it to potential members so they can join.

New Members

2030 Robert L. Conley,
52 Vista Ridge, Glenburn, ME 04401-1829.
Editor, *State Revenue Society News*.

2031 Albert J. (AJ) Valente
69 Lily LN, #111, West Lebanon, NH 03784.
Author *Rag Paper manufacturing in the US 1801–1900*; freelance writer *The American Philatelist*.

2032 Scott English
216 Amberleigh Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823-8479.
Columnist, *The American Philatelist*.

2033 Ludvik Svoboda
4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015.
Author, *Glossary of Philatelic Terminology Czech/Slovak to English and English to Czech/Slovak* (1, 2, 3 editions; Editor, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.

Bill DiPaolo
7110 Marston Court, University Park, FL 34201.
Contributor, *Prexie Era Stamp Production and Postal History*; Freelance writer, *LaPosta, U.S. Stamps*.

Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses.....	\$20.00
Canada and Mexico.....	\$22.50
All Other Addresses.....	\$25.00

Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. This will also save WU#30 several dollars because the USPS charges us when they have to send us an address correction, and we still have to pay the postage for re-shipping the issue to the member.

Ken Trettin
WU#30 Secretary-Treasurer
PO Box 56,
Rockford, IA 50468-0056
revenue@myomnitel.com
641-756-3542

Call for Papers for the Tenth Blount Postal History Symposium

November 1–2, 2018

World War I and its Immediate Aftermath
Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, D.C.

APS Writers Unit #30
 Ken Trettin
 PO Box 56,
 Rockford, IA 50468-0056
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Articles

WU30 Hall of Fame 2017	
Donna O'Keefe Houseman	
Patricia A. Kaufmann	
Robert Leslie Markovits	
Patrick Henry Woodward	
APS Hall of Fame 2017	
A Baker's Dozen of Things I've Learned About Writing...	
.....Steve Zwillinger	
APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting.....	
.....Richard Drews and John M. Hotchner	
Best 2016 Article Award for <i>Postal History Journal</i>	
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Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danec.claussen@gmail.com.

Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

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2017 Literature and Web Exhibits

APS CAC Website Competition, June 1, 2017, <https://stamps.org/Club-Benefits> (under Chapter Contests)

APS StampShow August 3-6, 2017, Richmond, VA, www.stamps.org/StampShow

CHICAGOPEX November, 2017, Itasca, IL, www.chicagopex.com/

APS CAC Newsletter Competition, January 15, 2018 entrance deadline. www.stamps.org/cac/

NAPEX, This show has announced that it will not hold a literature exhibit until further notice.